

Sunshine And Shadows Along The Telephone Trail.

Two guys stole forth at the break of morn;
Somewhere in Missouri;
The soft wind stirred the ripening corn;
Somewhere in Missouri.

They hid them to a wild duck pass;
They hid them in the weeds and grass;
Somewhere in Missouri.

Equipped they were for all their needs;
They crouched down in the grass and weeds;
And got stung with burrs and noxious weeds;
Somewhere in Missouri.

A lone wild duck flew across the sky;
A mile a minute and one mile high;
They quickly aimed and then let fly;
But the shot fell thickly by and by;
Somewhere in Missouri.

Which shows that is is possible for one to miss his aim in one field of endeavor as well as another, as many telephone men are well able to testify.

Many of us in the telephone business have started out with the firm intention of furnishing our community with telephone service of such a nature that we would be classed as public benefactors and become solid men of affairs in the community on the strength of our telephone foundation.

This was to be accomplished for that magic price of one dollar per month, we to furnish everything from central exchange to wiring houses. Years passed and nothing was reduced in price except the cost per call to the subscribers, while everything else went up which the Company had to furnish. In place of posing as a public benefactor, the telephone man found that he was merely a public servant who had to take orders from practically every body in town and he was so busy trying to make things go to fit his conditions that he had no time to work at any self-admiration stuff.

The public which was to be his nurse and support in return for telephone service, suddenly assumed the attitude of dictator and taskmaster with a great disinclination to pay for the duties it imposed in anything like an adequate manner. It held over his head the ever ominous threat of "taking out their telephones" in case they could not have twice the service for half its worth.

Some managers fell for the bluff for many years and toiled painfully on their thorn-bedecked pathway working for linemen's wages and often doing linemen's work in addition to their own, in order that they might continue to be thought a good fellow, or, as was true in some cases, that they might protect the investments which their friends had made at their request or on their advice.

Years passed and commissions came with their new requirements, which added another burden onto the time as well as the expense account of the much tried manager. Then the Interstate Commerce Commission was also given dictatorial powers over his time and actions and many clerks in Washington spent their time devising new and unique questions for the manager to answer, that he might be kept amused and busy and the aforesaid clerks regularly employed gathering statistics which were to never be used until some one could be found who could devise a way to find out something from them that would be of any profit to the people at large. The added expense was saddled onto the already overloaded one-dollar-a-month horse and the service was confidentially expected to improve under the new conditions.

The public exactions increased while the dollar it paid steadily diminished in purchasing power until the time came when the manager knew, and knew without the shadow of a doubt that he had been stung. The public did not know anything about it as yet, as it was too busy thinking what a good thing the stockholders were getting out of it.

The managers in some cases did a little quiet thinking and arranged for a change of employment, before they were thrown out by the directors for being incompetent because they could not pay dividends with service at a popular if not a profitable price. Others, feeling a moral obligation, stayed in the game and conscientiously tried to fit the coat to the cloth with more or less success. Others took the public into the secret by informing them of an increase in rates made obligatory by the changed conditions with the result that the last vestige of the public benefactor business faded into the distance and bothered the mind of the manager no more.

In taking just those actions which would stamp him as a man of worth and ability—a man to be depended upon to handle their money safely; to demand safety for investments intrusted to his operation—he missed his mark because, so public said a robber, a spendthrift, an incompetent, a public menace, an up-setter of traditions and a man unfit for the sacred office which he held in the community.

Time passed and so did the clamour, until finally the man who had the courage to raise his rates was justified in the public eye, as he always is in the end. His subscribers who deserted him, came back when they thought he had been sufficiently punished for his action; some came back in a day or so and others held him in suspense for a week or more while they walked or drove a four hundred dollar team for hours at a time on errands which the telephone would have enabled them to accomplish for a few cents. Still others stayed out for longer periods and some passed hence to their rewards without giving in to a grasping monopoly. Of course their widows had the telephone installed promptly after the funeral but that is beside the point.

The telephone company was punished for its temerity in trying to change public conceptions to fit its actual requirements in a financial way. Some times the community won (on paper) and some time the telephone company won all it asked for, which was only a part of what it really needed.

DOVER ITEMS.
Geo. Zeysing had business in Lexington Monday evening.

W. W. Cole and James Cather were in Lexington Monday night.

J. Q. Plattenburg and John Webb of Lexington were here Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Wahl were in Higginsville Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. John Sheehan and three children of Hardin, were here last week visiting Mr. and Mrs. Olliver Martin.

Mrs. James Dinwiddie spent several days last week in Marshall with her mother, Mrs. Chrisman.

Mrs. Laura Mitchel of Boonville was here last week visiting with her niece, Mrs. W. C. Pauling, and Mr. Pauling.

Mrs. O. G. Congdon and small daughter, Vera, of Bushong, Kansas, came Saturday night for a visit with Mrs. H. F. Redd and Mr. Redd.

Mrs. Dora Meng returned Tuesday to her home in Mendon, after a few days' visit here with relatives.

R. E. Dysart who had his ankle broken at Camp Mills a few weeks ago is able to use a wheel chair and getting along nicely.

Friends here received cards announcing the marriage last Saturday, June 15th, of Miss Florence Belle Beattie to Mr. Carl Gaines Harwood. At home in Oklahoma City.

Mrs. John Davis spent the

week end in Lexington with relatives.

James Salvers and family of Waverly, were here Sunday.

Rev. and Mrs. J. L. Owens of Wellington, were entertained Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Loren Nelson.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Welsh of Independence, announce the birth of a son on Thursday, June 13th. Mrs. Welsh is a grand daughter of Mrs. Nantie Littlejohn and was formerly Miss Alice Miller Littlejohn.

Mrs. Mildred Redd, Mrs. Mayme Ragland and small daughter, Mildred, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Redd and two children, Miss Janie and Robert, were guests last Sunday at the 89th birthday anniversary of their uncle, Thomas B. Campbell.

Everett and Herman Nelson came this morning for a farewell with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. Nelson.

Tommie Bertrand spent several days last week in Centralia.

Letter From Menefee Redd

In France,
May 21, 1918.

My Darling Mother:

Here it is the latter part of May and still not one bit of mail. Everyone is anxiously waiting for that day to come when again they can hear from home. We have been having fine weather ever since we have been here, but not quite like old Missouri. Today is exceptionally warm and I am sure thankful I am not drilling, although I am not idle.

You have heard the old saying "France for pretty girls." Well, I have my first French beauty to see. All I have seen are as ugly as home made sin. I had a card from Mrs. McGrew and she said, "beware of the pretty French girls," but I don't think I have much to beware of. I think the girls in the good old U. S. A. will be pretty enough for me.

Although we all work, we are having a great time looking over the country. It is very beautiful. I did not know I was such a lover of nature, it seemed to come to me all at once. One of our chief sights is a Chateau. It is near where we are stationed. Am going to try to go through it soon. The houses are rather queer, all one story owing to the lack of lumber. I like the slate or tile roofs with thatches here and there.

I have not seen any of the boys for about two weeks, suppose

they are well. Arthur Legg has his arm out of the sling and is back drilling.

Well, mother dear, I will have to stop although I haven't written anything of interest. Have you heard from Ernest? Hope he is well again. How is "Jinks"? Will finish at school, I suppose. You must write real often, not only you but all the family in different letters. Give my regards to all old Dover folks and to Capt. Zeysing. Don't forget my address is changed a little.

With lots of love to you all and lots for you.

Your devoted son,
MENEFFEE REDD.

Hdq. Co., 140 Infantry.

A SAFE TEST.

For those who are in need of a remedy for kidney troubles and backache, it is a good plan to try Doan's Kidney Pills. They are strongly recommended by Lexington People.

Mrs. A. Ashford, Fifth St., Lexington, says: "From my experience with Doan's Kidney Pills I can recommend them to others. I had rheumatic pains in my body and arms. My kidneys acted too frequently and I began to wear out physically. I got Doan's Kidney Pills at Crenshaw & Young's Drug Store and found great relief. I shall keep Doan's on hand hereafter in case of need."

60c, at all dealers. Foster-Milburn Co., Mfrs., Buffalo, N. Y.

Important Notice.

Any violations of the law covering cut-outs and glaring headlights on automobiles will be rigidly enforced on and after June 5, 1918.

J. C. TALBOTT, Sheriff.

Baby chix feed, nen feed, corn shops. Warder & Connor, Phone 158.

Misses Jean and Esther Wiley went to Kansas City this morning for a visit.

Parties knitting Red Cross sweaters please call for new directions at W. M. McCall's Music Store, Franklin Ave.

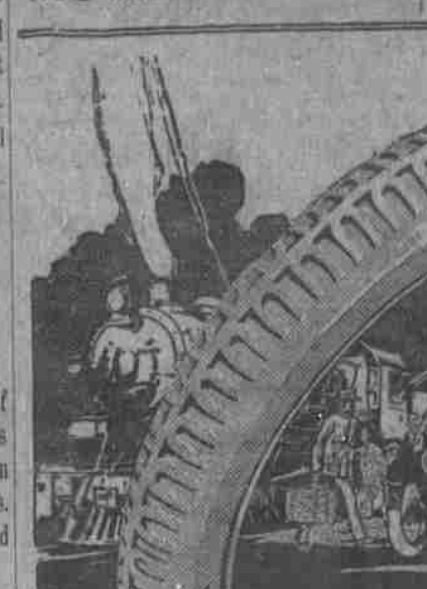
Joe Ewing returned Friday from a few days' visit in Marshall.

Miss Mary Claudia Wilson went to Wellington Wednesday for a few days' visit.

Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Shirley left Wednesday for Denver, Colorado, to spend the summer.

LOST: A pocket book containing \$35 in currency, four pens, two keys and the No. 2000 Central, Kansas City, Mo., on the west bound passenger train Saturday morning. C. M. Wood, Confederate Home, Finder please leave same at this office and receive a liberal reward.

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